

8p 24
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LUKE CAGE, POWER MAN



LET GO
OF MY GIRL,
BIG MAN--
OR I'LL
KILL
YOU !!

LUKE--NO!
YOU CAN'T
FIGHT HIM!
HE'S MY
HUSBAND!

AMONG US WALKS...
**BLACK
GOLIATH!**



LUKE CAGE: Wrongly convicted and sentenced to prison—reborn in a freak experiment there that gave him *steel-hard skin* and *strength beyond belief*—a man who hides his identity as an escaped convict in the role of a **HERO FOR HIRE!**

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

LUKE CAGE, POWER MAN!™

**TONY
ISABELLA,**
WRITER...

**GEORGE
TUSKA,**
ARTIST...

**DAVE
HUNT,**
INKER...

...DAVE H.,
HARRY B.,
KAREN P.,
LETTERERS,

DON
WARFIELD,
COLORIST,
AND...

...LEN WEIN
EDITOR, PRESENT
A VERY SPECIAL
DAY AT THE
CIRCUS!

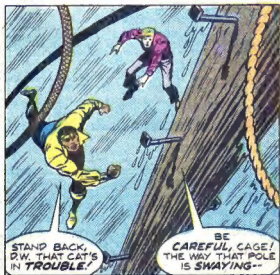
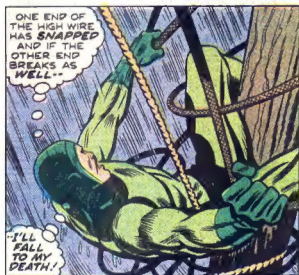
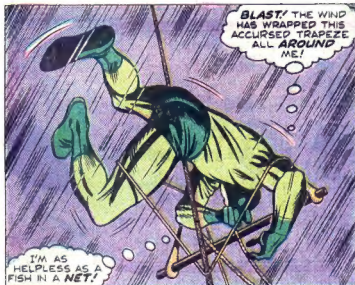
**AMONG
US
WALKS...**

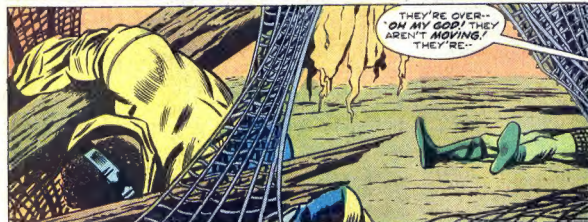
BLACK GOLIATH!

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--ALIVE!

YEAH,
THE ONLY
PROBLEM
IS:

LUIGI OVER
THERE WANTS
TO MAKE THIS ROUTINE
A REGULAR PART
OF THE ACT!



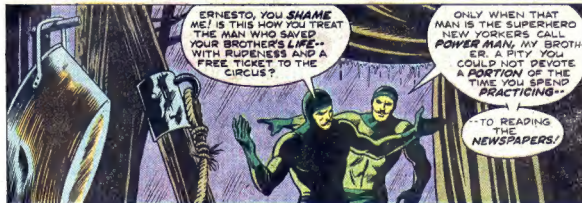
THERE ARE NO
WORDS TO EX-
PRESS MY THANKS.
I WILL ONLY SAY
THIS, MY FRIEND!
I AM IN YOUR
DEBT!

HEY, DON'T
WORRY ABOUT IT.
WE WERE JUST
LUCKY!



BUT PERHAPS
YOUR "LUCK"
DID NOT EXTEND
TO POSSIBLE IN-
TERNAL INJURES
SUFFERED IN
THE FALL.

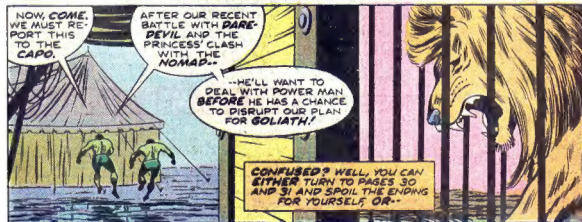
I MUST TAKE
MY BROTHER
TO THE SHOW'S
DOCTOR AT
ONCE! PLEASE
--WHY NOT VIEW
THE REST OF
THE CIRCUS
FREE OF
CHARGE?



ERNESTO, YOU SHAME
ME! IS THIS HOW YOU TREAT
THE MAN WHO SAVED
YOUR BROTHER'S LIFE--
WITH RUDENESS AND A
FREE TICKET TO THE
CIRCUS?

ONLY WHEN THAT
MAN IS THE SUPERHERO
NEW YORKERS CALL
POWER MAN, MY BROTHER.
A PITY YOU
COULD NOT DEVOTE
A PORTION OF THE
TIME YOU SPEND
PRACTICING--

--TO READING
THE
NEWSPAPERS!



NOW, COME.
WE MUST RE-
PORT THIS
TO THE
CAPO.

AFTER OUR RECENT
BATTLE WITH DARE-
DEVIL AND THE
PRINCESS' CLASH
WITH THE
NOMAD--

--HE'LL WANT TO
DEAL WITH POWER MAN
BEFORE HE HAS A CHANCE
TO DISRUPT OUR PLAN
FOR GOLIATH!

CONFUSED? WELL, YOU CAN
EITHER TURN TO PAGES 30
AND 31 AND SPOIL THE ENDING
FOR YOURSELF OR--

...OR JUST SIT YOURSELF BACK, RELAX, AND LET A COUPLE GUYS NAMED ISABELLA AND TUSKA WORK IT OUT FOR YOU. (YA PAYS YER MONEY, YA GETS YER CHOICE.)

WELCOME TO SUNNY CALIFORNIA.

SHEESH! FOR THE COLD SHOULDER BIT THAT ACROBAT'S BROTHER JUST PULLED--

--WE MIGHT AS WELL BE IN ALASKA.

DON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER IT, PAL. C'MON -- LET'S GET ON WITH THE REAL REASON WE LEFT 42 ND STREET AND CAME TO GOD-FORSAKEN LOS ANGELES...

YEAH, I KNOW: FIND CLAIRE TEMPLE, BUT, CAGE, I GOTTA ASK YOU SOMETHING.

ARE YOU SURE SHE WANTS TO BE FOUND?

THAT 'DEAR LUCAS' LETTER SHE LEFT WITH DOC BURNSTEIN WAS PRETTY SPECIFIC. IT SAID NOT TO FOLLOW HER.

*POWER MAN #20
€ 21--LEN W.

IT'S LIKE I TOLD THE DOC, D.W.-- WHY DID SHE SEND US A POSTCARD FROM L.A. THEN, COMPLETE WITH HOTEL ADDRESS?*

*ISSUE #22--LEN.

MAYBE SHE WAS TRV'IN' TO MAKE THE BREAK EASIER FOR ME -- OR MAYBE SHE'S HAD A CHANGE OF HEART. EITHER WAY--

--I GOT TO KNOWFOR SURE.

'CAUSE THAT MAMA MEANS A LOT TO ME.

THE HOTEL CLERK SAID SHE'S BEEN SPENDING HER TIME AT THE FAIRGROUNDS. I DON'T FIGURE THE CONNECTION, BUT I...

I...

I SEE HER TOO, CAGE.

"IT'S CLAIRE."





NEVER MIND **REPEATIN'** IT, LADY. I THINK I GOT THE **PICTURE**. WELL... THANKS ONE **FREAKIN' HELL** OF A LOT. I'LL PASS ON THE **CONGRATULATIONS**.

LUKE, **NO!** IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!



THE MAN I'M HERE WITH-- **BILL FOSTER** -- IS MY **EX-HUSBAND**.

WE'RE... **DIVORCED**.

NOT A VERY **PRETTY WORD**. IS IT, LUKE?

"PLEASE LISTEN, LUKE. IT'S KIND OF **HARD** TO GO OVER THE **WHOLE THING**. WE WERE IN **COLLEGE** WHEN WE GOT **MARRIED** AND SO VERY, VERY **YOUNG**.

"IT WENT **WRONG** ALMOST FROM THE **START**. WE WERE BOTH TOO **WRAPPED UP** IN PURSUING OUR **OWN CAREERS** TO SHOW EACH OTHER THE KIND OF **UNDERSTANDING** WE NEED.



"WE WENT THE **WHOLE BIT**: **ARGUMENTS**, **FIGHTS**, THE **TRIAL SEPARATION**...

"...AND, **FINALLY**, THE **DIVORCE COURT**.

"I GOT MY **DEGREE** AND SERVED MY **INTERNSHIP** AT A **LARGE HOSPITAL** BEFORE STARTING THE **CLINIC** WITH **NOAH**.

"**BILL** WENT TO **WORK** FOR **STARK INDUSTRIES**.

"WHEN THE AVENGER CALLED GOLIATH-- BETTER KNOWN AS HENRY PYM-- WAS TRAPPED AT A SIZE OF TEN FEET, TONY STARK ASKED BILL TO HELP REVERSE THE PROCESS."

* AVENGERS # 52--LEN.



"THEY SUCCEEDED. PYM GAVE UP HIS ROLE AS GOLIATH FOR THAT OF THE ANT-MAN, AND LATER, YELLOWJACKET."

"PYM'S FORMULAS FASCINATED BILL. HE CONTINUED EXPERIMENTING WITH THEM, IMPROVING ON THEM, FINALLY CREATING..."



"...A FAST-ACTING EXPANDING GAS!"



*HOW MANY MARVELITES REMEMBER WHEN ANT-MAN AND THE WASP USED TO ALTER THEIR SIZES IN THIS VERY FASHION?-- NOSTALGIA-LOVER--LEN.

"UNLIKE PYM'S VARIOUS EFFORTS, BILL'S DISCOVERY ELIMINATED ALL THE HARMFUL SIDE-EFFECTS OF SIZE-CHANGING."



"WITH ONE EXCEPTION."

"HE'S NOW TRAPPED AT A HEIGHT OF FIFTEEN FEET."

IT'S NO TRAGEDY. BILL'S SURE HE CAN BRING HIS SIZE-CHANGING UNDER CONTROL, BUT THAT'LL TAKE MONEY.

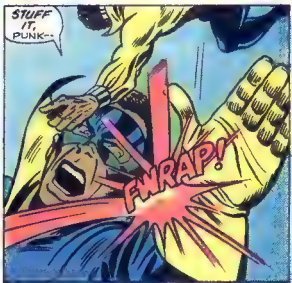
HE WAS TOO PROUD TO GO TO EITHER HENRY PYM OR TO STARK FOR HELP. HE JOINED THIS CIRCUIS TO GET SOME FAST MONEY.

I ASKED YOU NOT TO FOLLOW ME BECAUSE OF BILL'S CONNECTION WITH THE AVENGERS. I WAS AFRAID HE'D LEARN YOU'RE AN ESCAPED CONVICT.

THAT DON'T EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE HERE PLAYIN' NURSEMAID TO THE JOKER.

LUKE, I USED TO BE HIS WIFE! I OWE IT TO HIM!





...CAUSE WHILE I MAY NOT BE AS
PRACTICED AT THE GIANT
BIT AS HANK PYM--



THE NEW
GOLIATH CAN STILL
HANDLE A COUPLE
DOZEN SMALL-
TIMERS LIKE YOU!



SO WHY
DON'T YOU
CALL IT
QUITS,
LITTLE MAN--



-- BEFORE I
REALLY
START
THROWING
MY WEIGHT
AROUND.

GUESS CLAIRE NEVER
TOLD YOU ABOUT
ME,
CLOWN.



OTHERWISE, YOU'D
KNOW BETTER
THAN TO THINK
YOU CAN TAKE OUT
POWER MAN
WITH A COUPLE
OF FAST
MOVES.

I'VE BEEN KNOCKED
DOWN MORE TIMES
THAN I CAN
REMEMBER,
BIG MAN--

--AND I
ALWAYS--

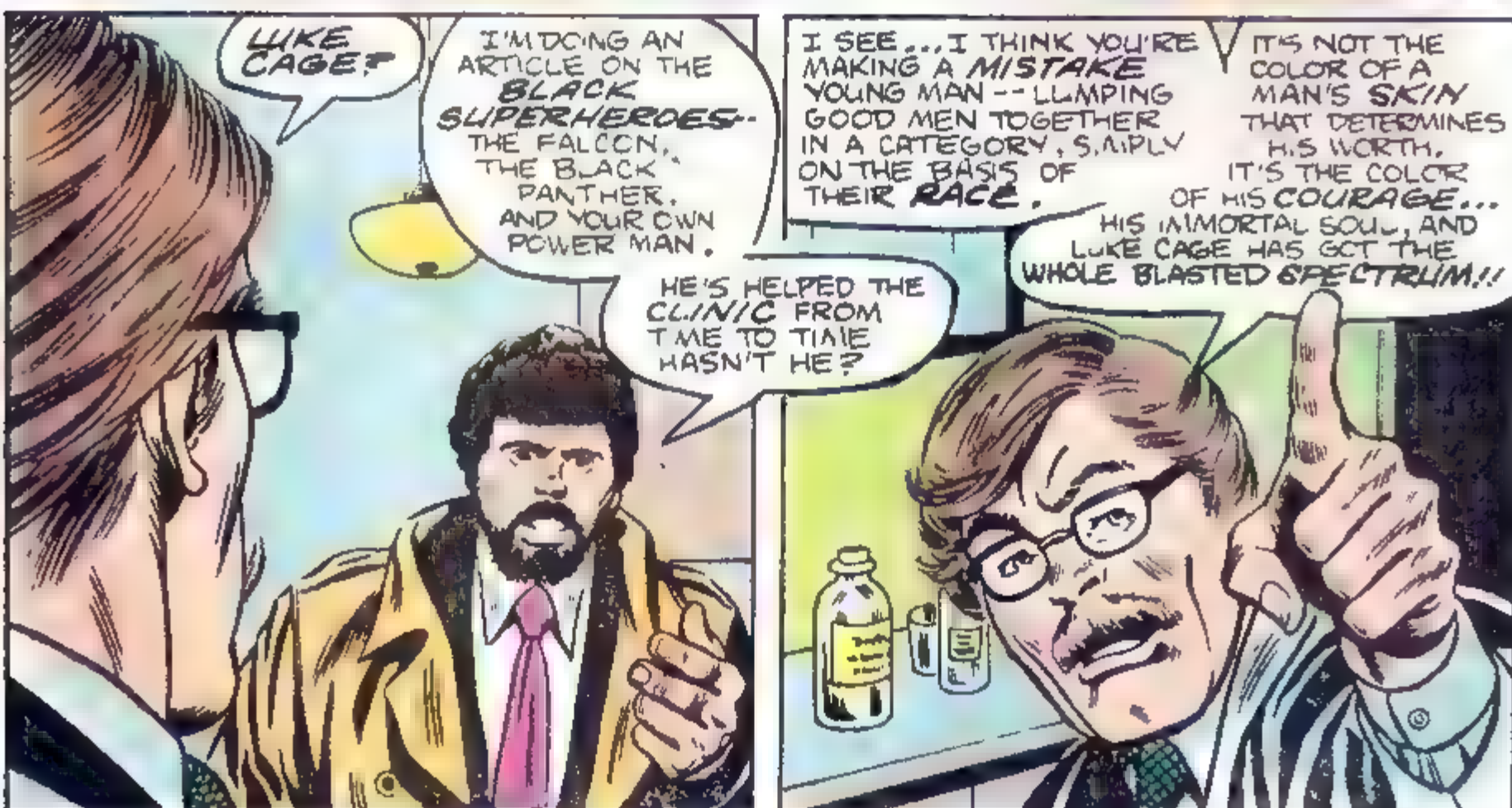
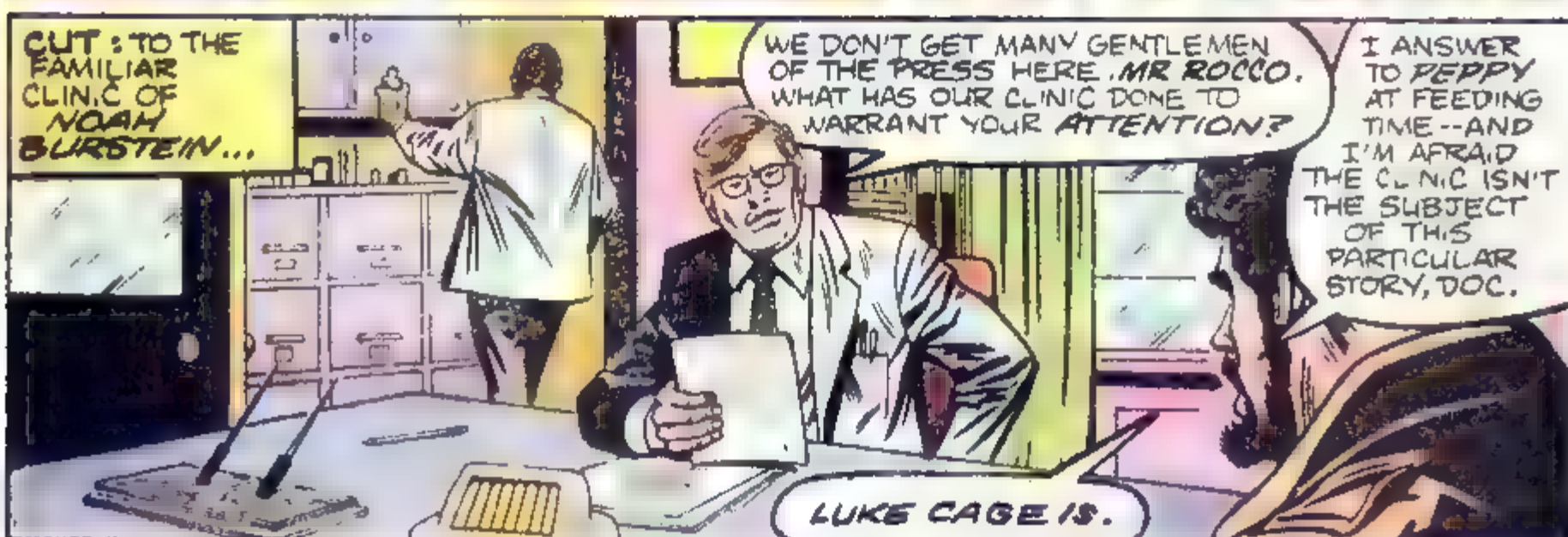
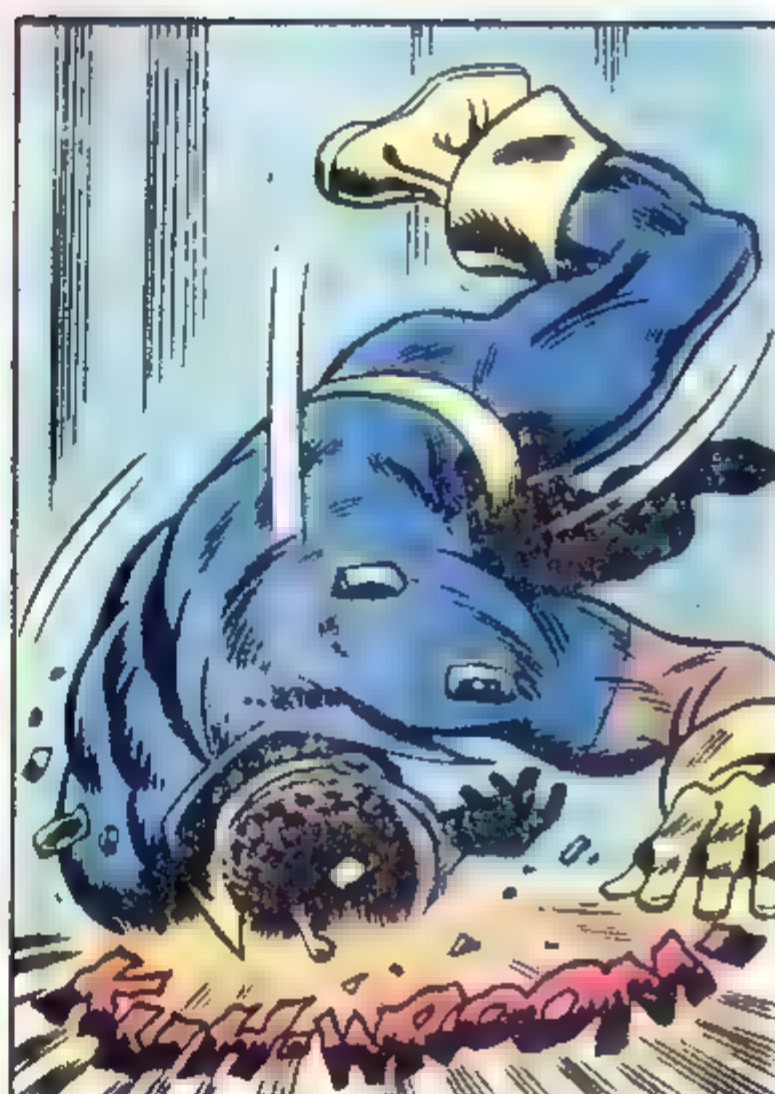
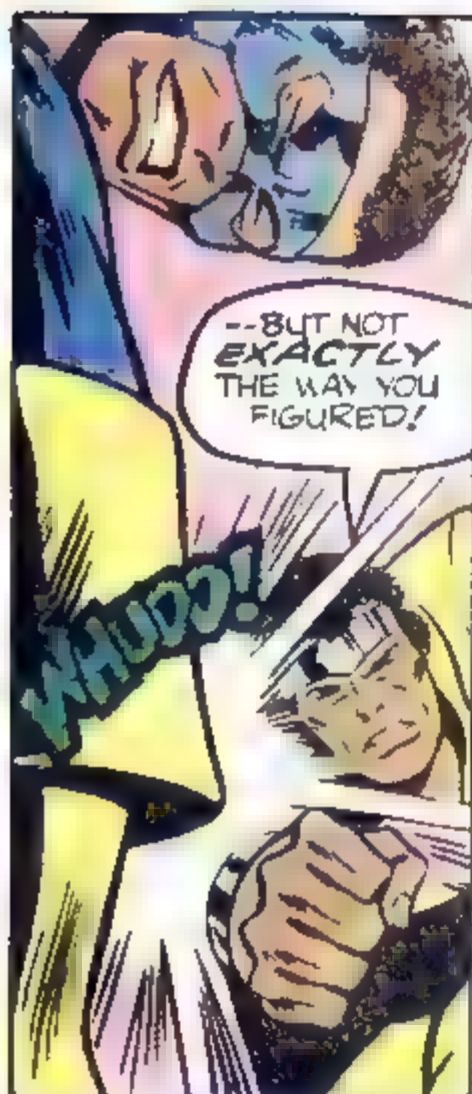


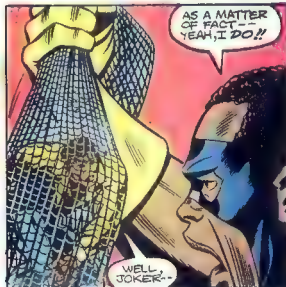
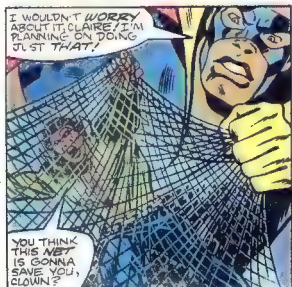
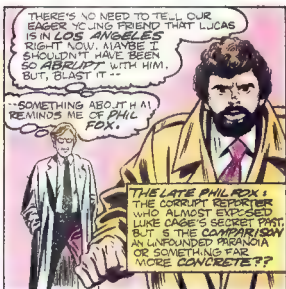
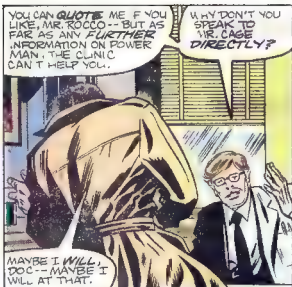
ALWAYS.

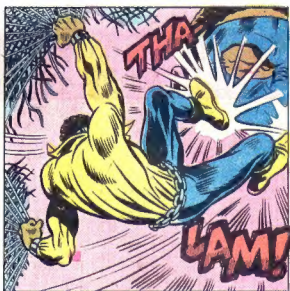
GET-RIGHT-
BACK--
UP!

SO I AM CALLIN'
IT QUITS, MR
GOLIATH--









IT'S A SENSELESS STRUGGLE--THAT BOTH HAVE KNOWN FROM THE BEGINNING, YET THEY CONTINUE.

THEY ARE ALIKE IN MANY WAYS, THESE TWO. THEY BOTH FEEL SET UPON BY THE EVENTS AROUND THEM. EACH BELIEVES HE FIGHTS FOR THE WOMAN HE LOVES.

ALIKE IN MANY WAYS; AND SO THEY BATTLE.

UNTIL...

ARGGGH!

KRACCKLEE-KRAAACCKKK

WHAT--WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THEM? ALL THAT ELECTRICITY CRACKLING AROUND THEM AND THEY JUST STARE AT YOU!

WHY, MY DEAR LADY--ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT MY ASSOCIATE HAS IMMOBILIZED THEM LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO BRING THEM UNDER THE HYPNOTIC CONTROL OF--

--THE
RING-
MASTER!

YOUR TWO FRIENDS SHALL
JOIN WITH MYSELF AND MY
ASSOCIATES-- FUNNY MAN, THE
GREAT GAMBONNOS, LIVE WIRE,
PRINCESS PYTHON, AND STRONG
MAN-- ON A NUMBER OF
PROFITABLE VENTURES.

IN SHORT,
MISS--

--THE CIRCUS
OF CRIME
LIVES AGAIN!

AND
THIS TIME,
NO ONE CAN
STOP US!



NEXT:
CRIME AND CIRCUSES!

DOCTOR GLITTERNIGHT LIVES! BUT CAN THE SAME BE SAID FOR A WEREWOLF BY NIGHT?